

Bethany Lutheran Church

"To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education,
and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to others."



So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

IMPORTANT DATES

02-09 Council Installation
02-10 Council meeting 6:30 pm
02-12 Women's circle
02-16 EPIC youth meeting
02-23 Community Meal



Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

As I sit and write this article the temperature outside is -4 degrees. Add in the wind chill and it is probably closer to -25 degrees. It has been a frigid winter and we aren't even done with January. Yet, I can't imagine living somewhere where you don't have snow or cold temperatures in the winter. It just wouldn't seem right to me; however, I also am keenly aware of the fact I long for warmer days, green blades of grass springing to new life, buds blossoming forth from trees, and flowers popping up from the ground. But looking outside right now, with the wind howling, the ground frozen and covered with snow it seems as if the new life harkened by the arrival of spring may never come.

In Paul's letter to the church in Corinth he is reminding them that through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ God once again acted and came to the side of God's people in an entirely new way. God has brought forth life out of death. God has united God's faithful people with the promise of that new life in Christ. The prophet Isaiah spoke similar words: "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19) Just prior to this the prophet has reminded the Israelites, who have been exiled from their homeland by the Babylonians, of the new thing God did for their ancestors in the great exodus from slavery in Egypt. The prophet is reminding them of God's power to create anew and redirecting their sight to what God will do next in delivering them from bondage once again.

At times it is hard to perceive God's continual new creation in our midst. Yet, it is there if we look. It is most certainly present each time we stand before the baptismal font and remember that daily the sinner in each of us is drowned and a new life emerges clothed in the garment of Christ's innocence. We are reminded of that new creation each time we speak words of confession and hear the promise of Christ's absolution. We experience that new creation in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper knowing that in Christ's death God has brought about new life through His resurrection.

Where else do you see God's new creation in the world? It's there even in the midst of the frigid temperatures and snow covered earth. I would love to hear where you see God's new creation and invite you to email me. Perhaps, we could list some responses on our website or Facebook page as our witness to the Spirit's continual work in the world.

In peace,
Pastor Chad

Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church
235 South Second Street
PO Box 236
West Branch, Iowa 52358

Pastor Chad Whaley
pastor@wbbethany.org

Office Hours
Monday & Thursday
9:00 am - Noon

*Pastor Chad is also available by
appointment.

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30-11:30 AM
Office Phone: (319) 643-5998

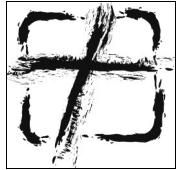
FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Simply search "Bethany Lutheran
Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa" on
facebook and "like" our page!



Fall Happenings

Lent schedule with our Brothers and Sisters of WBUMC and Springdale UMC



- * **Ash Wednesday @ Bethany – March 5**
- * **Maundy Thursday @ WBUMC – April 17**
- * **Good Friday @ Springdale UMC – April 18**

Church Staff

Pastor - Chad Whaley
 (319) 643-5998 or 643-7257
 pastor@wbbethany.org

Admin. Assistant - Paula Casper
 (319) 643-7141
 blcsecretary@lcom.net

Custodian – Deb Lund

Organist – Elizabeth Gotlund

Worship Corner

This month's emphasis will focus on the specific ministry of the *acolyte* or as referred to here at Bethany, *Ministers of Christ's Light*. The term acolyte is derived from the Greek language and literally means "to follow or to serve." An acolyte thus is a "lay liturgical assistant who serves in such various roles as crucifer, torchbearer, banner bearer, book bearer, candle lighter, or server." (*Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook*, S. Anita Stauffer) This is an extremely important and vital ministry during worship, which is the central component in the life of the church. Acolytes at Bethany are ministers of Christ's light as they bring forth the flame that will light the altar candles - a visual reminder of Christ as the light of the world. They are also assisting ministers during communion and throughout the service in various other capacities their gifts may be needed. So remember to thank the Ministers of Christ's Light on Sunday for their service and recall that, "participating in the worship of the church is an exciting adventure that belongs to all the baptized people of God." (*Acolytes and Servers*, Gerald Spice)

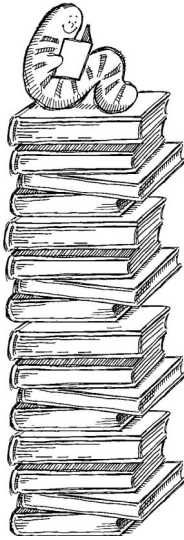


- **What:** Called Together in Mission (CTIM)
- **When:** Saturday, March 8, 2014; 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- **Where:** First Lutheran, Cedar Rapids
- **Why:** To grow in your faith and spend time with others from our synod
- Please consider attending this annual workshop sponsored by the Southeastern Iowa Synod. This year's theme is "Everyday Evangelists: Deepen your faith. Share your story." Those from Bethany who have attended CTIM in the past have enjoyed the worship experience with others from across the synod, the workshops offered, and the time to fellowship with others. If you are interested in attending please let Paula know by February 15th. More information can be found on the Southeastern Iowa Synod Website (www.seiasynod.org) or going to Bethany's webpage where there is a link to this event.



BIRTHDAYS

- 02/02 Becky Paulsen
- 02/04 Del Hughes
- 02/06 Herman Boedecker, Jamie Fetzer
- 02/10 Dave Bahnsen, Paul Friis,
Kristin McElhinney
- 02/15 Becky Blaaid, Kyle Colvin,
Dave Poppen
- 02/20 Joshua Snyder, Jamie Zimmerman
- 02/21 Tina Webb
- 02/23 Arik Marsh
- 02/24 Lynn Lovetinsky
- 02/26 Isaac Kimpe
- 02/27 Dorothy Holmes



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books for Adults

The books this month have been recommended from a number of sources. The adult discussion class held on Sunday after church studied the book *Exodus From Hunger: We Are Called To Change The Politics Of Hunger* by David Beckmann, who is the head of Bread for the World and winner of the 2010 World Food Prize. There is much in this book to think about concerning hunger. Much progress has been made in recent years against hunger and poverty but much still remains to be done. The author is optimistic that we can reduce poverty and hunger in the

United States and around the world. This book was published in 2010 and in that short time with the economy being what it is, help is needed when the Farm Bill is being discussed with its implication for food subsidies for many people in the United States.

The author of *Exodus From Hunger* mentions a number of books that can be helpful in the area of poverty and hunger. One is *50 Ways To Help Save The Earth: How You And Your Church Can Make A Difference* by Rebecca Barnes-Davies. This user friendly guide outlines a variety of ways in which you, your congregation, and your community can help fight global climate change and participate in a vital part of Christian discipleship. The author makes a clear connection in a practical way between stewardship of the earth and living one's faith.

Another book recommended is: *Our Day To End Poverty: 24 Ways You Can Make A Difference*

By Shannon Daley-Harris and Jeffrey Keenan. Dozens of examples of ways to eliminate poverty in our day are given. Using a typical 24-hour day as a framework and focusing on common daily activities the book underscores the connection between our daily experiences and the suffering of people around the world. Filled with facts, resources for learning more, and hands-on items, it helps us to begin to think about these issues in creative ways that could make a difference.

Another recommended book is: *Change the World: Recovering The Message And Mission Of Jesus* by Mike Slaughter. Despite the church's place of prominence in American culture something is not working. Christians are known more for exclusivity than for love, more for potlucks than for solving world hunger. The author says that it is time for the church to get over what he calls "the cruise ship mentality" of being a program provider and reconnect with the true message and mission of Jesus – to bring the good news to the poor. This view sees to church as called to be a mission outpost, living out Christ's ideals in today's world.

Charity: The Place Of The Poor In The Biblical Tradition by Gary A. Anderson is a reappraisal of charity in the biblical tradition. He argues that the poor constituted the privileged place where Jews and Christians met God.



4th Sunday Community Dinner And Fellowship

What: Free meal and fellowship

When: Sunday, February 23rd from
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Where: Bethany Lutheran Church

Who: All are welcome!

Why: Because God loves you!



Adult Education Opportunities

Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website (www.wbbethany.org) by placing your cursor over the "Resource" tab found on the home page and then selecting "Sermons" when it pops up. Additionally, some people have requested an email with the sermon attached. If you prefer that method please contact Pastor Chad.

Thursday Women's Bible Study
6:00 a.m. in the Small Hall

All are Welcome

Bethany Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group
Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. in the Great Hall

All are Welcome

Updates/Reminders

Reminder:

If you or a loved one is in the hospital and desire a pastoral visit, please have someone contact the church at 643-5998.

Bethany Books continued

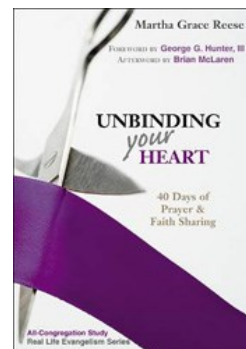
Sifting through biblical and postbiblical texts, Anderson shows how charity affirms the goodness of the created order. He states that the world was created through charity and therefore rewards it.

Books For Children

Goodbye, Brecken: A Story About The Death of A Pet by David Lupton is a book about grieving that is suitable for children ages 4-8. When Isabelle's beloved dog Brecken dies, she feels a mix of emotions including anger, sadness, and loss. In a dream she goes on a quest to find him and meets a deer, a fox, some rabbits, and a crow who remind her of things she loved about her dog. Then Brecken appears and they spend some time together before she must say goodbye. Isabelle wakes up and knows that Brecken will live forever in her memories of him. The death of a pet is a difficult thing for youngsters to go through, and they may need guidance from adults. At the end of this book, a doctor offers some coping strategies. Recommended in *The Lutheran* June 2013.

LENT BOOK STUDY

WHAT: *UNBINDING YOUR HEART: 40 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FAITH SHARING*



WHEN: THURSDAY EVENINGS DURING LENT (MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27 & APRIL 3, 10)

WHERE: GREAT HALL: 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

THIS IS THE STUDY THE COUNCIL DID IN 2013 AND FOUND BENEFICIAL. THE COST OF THE BOOK IS \$12.00 AND IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME TO PAULA OR PASTOR CHAD BY FEBRUARY 15TH SO WE CAN ORDER BOOKS.



Stewardship Spotlight

As good stewards we need to take care of ourselves as well as our time and our possessions. Here are some tips from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for a safe and healthy life. Take steps every day to live a safe and healthy life.

Eat Healthy

Eat a variety of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains every day.
Limit foods and drinks high in calories, sugar, salt, fat, and alcohol.
Eat a balanced diet to help keep a healthy weight.

Be Active

Be active for at least 2½ hours a week. Include activities that raise your breathing and heart rates and that strengthen your muscles.
Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day. Include activities that raise their breathing and heart rates and that strengthen their muscles and bones.
Physical activity helps to:
Maintain weight
Reduce high blood pressure
Reduce risk for type 2 diabetes, heart attack, stroke, and several forms of cancer
Reduce arthritis pain and associated disability
Reduce risk for osteoporosis and falls
Reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety

Protect Yourself and Your Family

Wear helmets, seat belts, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
Wash hands to stop the spread of germs.
Avoid smoking and breathing other people's, or (second hand), smoke.
Build safe and healthy relationships with family and friends.
Be ready for emergencies. Gather emergency supplies. Make a plan. Be informed.

Manage Stress

Balance work, home, and play.
Get support from family and friends.
Stay positive.
Take time to relax.
Get 7-9 hours of sleep each night. Make sure kids get more, based on their age.
Get help or counseling if needed.

Get Check-Ups

Ask your doctor or nurse how you can lower your risk for health problems.
Find out what exams, tests, and shots you need and when to get them.
See your doctor or nurse for regular check-ups and as often as directed. Get seen if you feel sick, have pain, notice changes, or have problems with medicine.

More information is available at this website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/family/tips/index.htm>

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**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
December 16, 2013**

Members present: Pastor Chad, Claudia Beyer, Nancy Bruns, Bonnie Conner, Del Hughes, Candy Madsen, Laura Twing

Members Absent: Toni Dodds, Courtney Heid, Kent Kaufman

Meeting Called to Order: 6:34 p.m. by President Del Hughes

Opening Prayer/Devotions: Pastor Chad opened with devotion and prayer.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Chad reported on his activities for the month, which included mental health first aid training at the University of Iowa.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the November regular meeting to be approved: Candy Madsen moved to accept the minutes. Bonnie Conner seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Claudia presented the November financials. She pointed out that the Hope Chest fund is getting a little low and recommended that some of the General Fund surplus be moved to the Mission Investment fund. Candy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Laura Twing seconded. Approved.

Laura made a motion to:

- * Move \$5,000 from the General fund to the Mission Investment fund.
- * Transfer the balances from the Thrivent Choice fund and Hoover Hometown Days fund to the Hope Chest fund.
- * Transfer the \$10 in the Memorial fund to the Quilters Fund.
- * Approve the renewal of a 5 year loan at Community State Bank at a slightly lower interest rate and same monthly payment amounts.

Candy seconded. Approved.

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds: It was noted that there are 3 bills left outstanding on the parking lot/driveway project.

Education: The Sunday School Christmas program went well.

Youth: The EPIC group delivered the chemo bags they put together. They have a Christmas party planned at the Schiele's home.

Evangelism & Missions: There was a good response

for the Angel tree and three families were served.

Music and Worship: Bonnie reported that 23 poinsettias have been ordered for the Christmas Eve services, which will be at 5 and 8. Bonnie has also ordered new communion linens.

Fellowship: Candy reported that the Cookie Walk was exceptional. There was an outstanding selection of cookies with only 4 ½ cookies left at 10:55. The net profit was \$990. Candy felt that the signs, which can be reused next year, were effective. Candy is proposing to provide a fee evening meal the 4th Sunday of each month. This would be for those who are in need financially or lonely. The council was in favor of it and said it is worth a try.

Stewardship: Nancy reported that the dollars pledged and the amount estimated for the 2014 budget is down from last year. There is new information on the bulletin board and the quarterly stewardship newsletter will be out soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

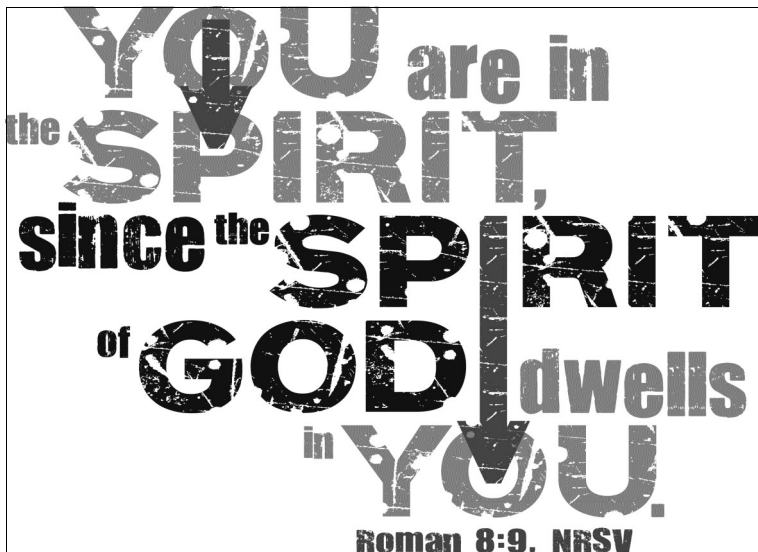
- * The Great Hall sound system is in need of repair. Del feels that the wiring is there, we just need to find someone with the right talent to work with it. If that falls through, we do have a quote from Communications Engineering Company (CEC) for approximately \$1,200.
- * Annual synod assembly – the congregation needs to elect one male and one female at the annual congregational meeting to represent Bethany at the annual synod assembly which will be held at the Coralville Marriott on May 30th and 31st. Neil and Chris Korsmo have volunteered and two others volunteered on the time and talent sheets.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * It was reported that a radon test performed in the small hall reflected a borderline high reading. It may be necessary to install a mitigation system.
- * The council was reminded that in 2011 the council made a decision to not provide paper/plastic/styrofoam products for fellowship events and encourage hosts to use dishes and silverware available in the kitchen. This initiative to “go green” is one small way we can be better stewards of God's creation.

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)**

- * Staff reviews – Pastor Chad asked about the process for reviews of our staff members: administrative assistant, organist and custodian. There are job descriptions for all three positions. It was decided that going forward the Pastor should do the annual reviews and make recommendations to the budget committee regarding compensation.
 - * Pastoral Compensation and 2014 Budget – Claudia, Kent and Del met with Pastor Chad to develop his compensation package for 2014. That package and the budget proposed by the budget committee was presented by Treasurer Claudia Beyer. Candy moved to accept the pastoral compensation package and the 2014 budget proposed by the budget committee. Bonnie seconded. Approved.
 - * Local benevolence – The Council discussed the distribution of 2% of our offerings, which is budgeted for Local Missions. It is estimated that the amount will be approximately \$2,700. Candy moved to donate \$500 to the West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) and the remainder split equally between the following six ministries:
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Chaplaincy
University of Iowa Lutheran Campus Ministry
The Shelter House
The Domestic Violence Shelter
Lutheran Social Services of Iowa
Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque
Laura seconded. Approved.
- Meeting Adjourned: 8:27pm by President Del Hughes
Next Meeting: Monday, January 13, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.



Custodian Position Opening

Bethany is currently seeking to fill the Custodian position, which will become available March 1. Deb Lund will be resigning at the end of this month. We thank Deb for her faithful service and wish her well. She has done an excellent job. If you are interested please pick up a job application and position description. They are sitting on the piano in the Small Hall. *Please submit these to Paula, Kent, or Del by Friday, February 14.* If you have any questions please see Kent Kaufman or Del Hughes.

Church Council

Del Hughes
(319) 643-7398
hughesdelsue@yahoo.com

Kent Kaufman
(319) 643-5734
bkkaufman@lcom.net

Claudia Beyer
(319) 643-2136
iabeyers@aol.com

Bonnie Conner
(319) 643-2634
bonnieconner@lcom.net

Laura Twing
(319) 331-6579
lltwing@aol.com

Courtney Heid
(319) 400-7227
cheid88@gmail.com

Candy Madsen
(319) 643-5869
rcmadsen@lcom.net

John Black
(319) 643-5622
johnblack@lcom.net

Dave Bahnsen
(319) 354-2401
bahn1225@gmail.com



Daily Bible Readings

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings. The complete Daily Lectionary is also found on pages 1121-1153 of our hymnal, *Evangelical*

Feb. 1 Saturday	Psalm 15 Micah 3:1-4 John 13:31-35	Feb. 15 Saturday	Psalm 119:1-8 Deut. 30:1-9a Matthew 15:1-9
Feb. 2 Sunday	Micah 6:1-8 1 Corinth. 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	Feb. 16 Sunday	Deut. 30:15-20 1 Corinth. 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37
Feb. 3 Monday	Psalm 37:1-17 Ruth 1:1-18 Philemon 1-25	Feb. 17 Monday	Psalm 119:9-16 Exodus 20:1-21 James 1:2-8
Feb. 4 Tuesday	Psalm 37:1-17 Ruth 2:1-16 James 5:1-6	Feb. 18 Tuesday	Psalm 119:9-16 Deut. 23:21-24:4, 10-15 James 2:1-13
Feb. 5 Wednesday	Psalm 37:1-17 Ruth 3:1-13 Luke 6:17-26	Feb. 19 Wednesday	Psalm 119:9-16 Proverbs 2:1-15 Matthew 19:1-12
Feb. 6 Thursday	Psalm 112:1-9 Deut. 4:1-14 1 John 5:1-5	Feb. 20 Thursday	Psalm 119:33-40 Exodus 22:21-27 1 Cor. 10:23-11:1
Feb. 7 Friday	Psalm 112:1-9 Isaiah 29:1-12 James 3:13-18	Feb. 21 Friday	Psalm 119:33-40 Lev. 6:1-7 Galatians 5:2-6
Feb. 8 Saturday	Psalm 112:1-9 Isaiah 29:13-16 Mark 7:1-8	Feb. 22 Saturday	Psalm 119:33-40 Lev. 24:10-23 Matthew 7:1-12
Feb. 9 Sunday	Isaiah 58:1-12 1 Corinth. 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20	Feb. 23 Sunday	Levit. 19:1-2, 9-18 1 Cor. 3:10-11, 16-23 Matthew 5:38-48
Feb. 10 Monday	Psalm 119:105-112 2 Kings 23:3-20 Romans 11:2-10	Feb. 24 Monday	Psalm 119:57-64 Proverbs 25:11-22 Romans 12:9-21
Feb. 11 Tuesday	Psalm 119:105-112 2 King 23:1-8, 21-25 2 Corinth. 4:1-12	Feb. 25 Tuesday	Psalm 119:57-64 Gen. 31:1-3, 17-50 Hebrews 12:14-16
Feb. 12 Wednesday	Psalm 119:105-112 Proverbs 6:6-23 John 8:12-30	Feb. 26 Wednesday	Psalm 119:57-64 Proverbs 3:27-35 Luke 18:18-30
Feb. 13 Thursday	Psalm 119:1-8 Genesis 26:1-5 James 1:12-16	Feb. 27 Thursday	Psalm 131 Proverbs 12:22-28 Philippians 2:19-24
Feb. 14 Friday	Psalm 119:1-8 Levit. 26:34-46 1 John 2:7-17	Feb. 28 Friday	Psalm 131 Isaiah 26:1-6 Philippians 2:25-30



FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Sunday School all ages	3	4 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	5 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	6 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	7	8
9 Council Installation 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Sunday School all ages	10 6:30 PM Council Meeting	11 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	12 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	13 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	14	15
16 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 10:15 AM Adult Study 10:15 AM Sunday School all ages 5:00 PM EPIC Youth meeting	17	18 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	19 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	20 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	21	22
	24	25 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open 5:30 PM Yoga class	26 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	27 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	28	1

Financial Report Submitted by Claudia Beyer

	DECEMBER		YTD thru December	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	11,919	10,750	137,474	129,000
Total Expenses	14,960	12,007	130,382	144,421

